The Numismatic and Antiquarian
Society of Philadelphia.

William Penn's

LANDING IN PENNSYLVANIA

THE

Bi-Centennial Anniversary

DATE FOR CELEBRATION

IN A. D. 1882.

Report

OF THE

MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

Appointed to consider and report on the above.

PHILADELPHIA
1881.

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GILLIN & NAGLE PRINTING HOUSE, 230-232 SOUTH FIFTH STREET.

TO THE

NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

OF PHILADELPHIA.

The subscribers, a majority of the Committee appointed by your honorable Society, to consider and report upon the proper day upon which should be celebrated, the Bi-Centennial Anniversary of the landing of William Penn in his then Province, now State, of Pennsylvania, Respectfully report:—

That they have held meetings and considered the subject matter of the above resolution, at which said meetings they did not all agree, the Chairman of the Committee not being in accord with the balance of the Committee; that the latter the subscribers hereto, think that the proper day for the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of William Penn's landing in his then Province, now State, of Pennsylvania, should be on the natural day of A. D. 1882, which by the altered or so called new style, will bear the same name in the present used calendar, as the month and day of the month; as the natural and actual day of William Penn's arrival in his then Province, now State, of Pennsylvania, in the year A. D 1682, was named according to then, now called old style, in the then used calendar, by month and day of the month, viz.:—

William Penn arrived in Pennsylvania 1682, October 29
Two hundredth anniversary in Pennsylvania 1882, October 29

In arriving at the above conclusion the majority of your Committee has been governed by the following precedents The principle underlying the Bull of Pope Gregory XIII, February 24th, A. D. 1582, altering the then calendar style, is that in case of annually recurring fixed days, not involving rights of property, the same nominal days should be retained, that is the days of celebrations, after the alteration of the calendar by the Bull, are to be of the same named days in the new style as they were in the old style, before the promulgation and going into effect of the said Papal Bull.

The Bull of Gregory XIII, did not disturb the fixed religious days and change them from their old accustomed positions in the calendar, as they were before the Bull went into effect; under it they were and are now continued on the same nominal days. Blondel, writing in A. D. 1682, gives a Gregorian calendar containing 196 fixed days for the Roman Church, of which 56 are to be found in the calendar attached to the Act of George II, hereafter cited. The Spaniard Ribadeneyra, about A. D. 1669, gives 113 fixed days of the Roman Church.

The Act of Parliament of 24, George II, c. 23, A D, 1751, which was made when the American Colonies were part of the British Dominions, was by its words applied to them, and was in force within the bounds of this State when it was a Colony, and having been passed prior to the Revolution of Independence and adopted by acquiescence, altered the calendar style in the then Province, now State, of Pennsylvania (Price on Limitations 368-369). It ordered certain of the anniversary days of old style to be observed on the same nominal days of new style, viz. :—

I. All fixed feast days, holy days and fast days kept in the Church of England. (Section III).

II. All solemn days of thanksgiving and of fasting and humiliation, established by Act of Parliament. (Section III).

III. All fixed days for meetings of bodies politic and corporate. (Section I).

IV. All fixed days for holding courts, except some courts held with fairs. (Section I).

Of the I and II of these, the calendar attached to the Act gives 97, and of those which are of a religious character, the Protestant Episcopal Church of this country retained 24 of the same date as in the calendar last named.

These fixed days of feasts, holy days, fasts, &c, constitute a large array of instances. Most of them may be strictly termed anniversaries, and were formerly observed on old style dates, and have been, since the Bull or the Act,

regarded for purposes of celebration as happening on the same nominal days, new style, as they formerly did on now called old style. That they were for the most part religious anniversaries does not alter their effect and force as precedents; indeed, some of the annually occurring celebrations, to which the foregoing remarks will apply, were not in any view religious, viz.:

The Gunpowder Plot,	November 5th, O. S.
The Execution of Charles I,	January 30th, O. S.
The Restoration of Charles II,	May 29, O. S.
The Great Fire in London,	September 2d, O. S.

These are some which have been, since the Act of Parliament, observed on the same nominal days, new or altered style, as they were in old style.

The celebration of the Gunpowder Plot was observed in Taunton, Massachusetts, as late as November 5th, N. S., 1775.

Christmas has been and is kept both in old and new style, on the 25th day of December. To these may be added days of celebrating anniversaries in Germany.

Reformation in Germany,	October 31st, 1517.
Confession of Faith at Augsburg,	June 25th, 1530.
Adoption by Germany of the Book of Concord	June 25th, 1580,

as a few of those repeated without change of style. But we have precedents also in our own State.

The first meeting of "The Society to Commemorate the Landing of William Penn," was held at Philadelphia on November 4th, 1824, in place of October 24th, 1682, O. S. by adding on to the latter date 11 days for change of style. The Society held its anniversaries on the assumption that William Penn landed in his Province of Pennsylvania, on the 24th day of October, A. D. 1682, O. S., and this was the 142d, but they soon discovered their mistake in adding on the 11 days, and discontinued it, having their subsequent celebrations on the nominal but incorrect day, October 24th. The Constitution and By-laws were adopted February 2d, 1825. Among the original members were Peter S. Duponceau,

John Read, William Meredith, Richard Peters, Jr., Thomas I. Wharton, Joseph Parker Norris, Robert Wharton, we suppose the former Mayor of the City, Zachariah Poulson, Benjamin R. Morgan, George Vaux, Roberts Vaux, John F. Watson, (the historian), and Joseph S. Lewis. Among the officers, were such well-known men as Thomas I. Wharton, Richard Peters, Joshua Francis Fisher, Joseph Parker Norris. The celebrations have been as follows:

Celebration, October 24th, 1825, address C. J. Ingersoll.

Meeting, October 24th, 1825, thanks to C. J. Ingersoll.

Celebration, October 24th, 1826, address by Thomas I. Wharton.

Meeting, October 24th, 1826, thanks to Thomas I. Wharton.

Celebration, October 24th, 1827, address by J. N. Barker.

Meeting, October 24th, 1827, thanks to J. N. Barker.

Celebration, October 24th, 1832, address by Peter S. Duponceau.

Meeting, October 24th, 1832, thanks to Peter S. Duponceau.

Celebration, October 24th, 1836, address by Job R. Tyson.

Meeting, October 24th, 1836, thanks to Job R. Tyson.

The birthday of Thomas Paine, was January 29th, 1736, the celebration of it was in New York City, January 29th, 1881.

A strong reason against changing the style in celebrating the anniversary also is, because a change will tend to prevent the people's familiarity with the actual nominal day upon which the event really happened, and will unsettle their minds on the subject, whereas, if the style is not altered, the actual nominal day of the happening of the occurrence is fixed. A precedent that can be urged against this view of not changing the style, but celebrating on the nominal day old style, is the example of change as to the celebration of the birthday of General George Washington; but this will

not apply to the present question, for it is specially provided for in the said Act of Parliament of George II, as to birthdays and coming of age. George Washington was born February 11th, A. D. 1732*, and therefore became of age, if the said Act had not been passed, on the 11th February, A. D. 1753, but the Act went into effect on the 3d day of September, A. D. 1752, which had 11 days added to it, and was called on that 3d day of September, A. D. 1752, the 14th day of September, A. D. 1752; this would, if not provided for, have made all twenty-first birthday celebrations, coming after its passage, happen eleven days earlier than they would have done otherwise, and would have affected legal rights in property, &c. This was, however, provided for in the Act of George II, before mentioned. The VI section of the Act providing:

"That nothing in this present Act contained shall "extend or be construed to extend, to accelerate or antici- "pate * * * the time of the attaining the age of one and "twenty years, or any other age requisite by any law, "custom, usage, &c., whatsoever, for the doing any act, or "for any other purpose whatsoever, by any person or "persons now born or who shall be born, before the said "14th day of September, * * * and no person or persons "whatsoever shall be deemed or taken to have attained the "said age of one and twenty years, or any such age as "aforesaid, * * * until the full number of years and "days shall have elapsed on which such person or persons "respectively would have attained such age, * * * in "case this act had not been made."

The twenty-first anniversary of the birthday of George Washington could not therefore have happened by the express provisions of the Act, until the 22d day of February, A. D. 1753, N. S. and he became of lawful age on that day, and not on the 11th day of February, A. D 1753, N. S. Our Act of the Pennsylvania Legislature making the 22d day of February legal holiday, calls that day, the

* NOTE.—Many of his biographers write February 22d, 1732

birthday of Washington, but that is not really the fact, as he was born on the 11th day of February, old style, but became of age on the 22d day of February, new style, because by the change in the calendar, the 22d day of February answered to that which would have been the 11th day of February, had the Act of George II not been passed and the calendar not altered.

We also think if any change of style is to be made at the present time it would be correct to add on 12 and not 10 days or 11 days; 10 days would have been proper if the change had been made in A. D. 1682, but in the 18th century another day had been lost by the precession of the equinoxes, and in the 19th century up to A. D. 1882, about one more day for the like reason, which causes the difference between the tropical and sidereal year. If a change in the calendar had been made in A. D. 1852, instead of A. D. 1752, 100 years having elapsed since 1752, one more day would have to have been added making the full 12 days. In Russia the calendar has not ever been changed, by the Bull or any law from so-called old style, and when a change is made to our present style 12 days are added, to make our date of the same time as their date. For instance Alexander II was killed the 1st day of March, 1881, Russian or old style, and his death was announced in our newspapers as happening on the 13th day of March, 1881, our style. 12 days added to the Russian or old style.

And in further support of these views, we request the members of the Society to read carefully the essays lately published by the Society, called: "Act and Bull," and "Old and New Style Fixed Dates, Calendars, and the principles and Rules of Emendations."

Resolved, that this Committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject: all which is respectfully submitted.

ISAAC MYER.
D. G. BRINTON, M. D.
JNO. R. BAKER.

April 7th, 1881.